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## JULY MEETING.

The Society held their stated monthly meeting on Thursday, July 8, at noon, at their rooms in Tremont Street, Boston; the President, Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, in the chair.

The Librarian announced donations from the American Antiquarian Society; the Wisconsin Historical Society; the City of Boston; Rev. Caleb D. Bradlee; William H. Dennett, Esq.; Samuel A. Green, M.D.; L. A. Huguet Latour, Esq.; James Lenox, Esq.; and from Messrs. Nathan Appleton, Livermore, and Winthrop, of the Society.

The Corresponding Secretary reported letters of acceptance from Hon. Richard Rush, as an Honorary Member, from Hon. George P. Marsh, Dr. Francis Lieber, and Richard Hildreth, Esq., as Corresponding Members, and from Hon. William Sturgis, and Levèrett Saltonstall, Esq., as Resident Members, of the Society.

The Corresponding Secretary communicated the following letter from Rev. Charles Lowell, D.D., presenting to the Society a leaden inkstand cast by his distinguished predecessor, Rev. Jonathan Mayhew, D.D., in 1738.

ELMWOOD, June 24, 1858.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—If I had been aware of the meeting of the Historical Society at Cambridge, I should certainly have done myself the pleasure of attending, and have brought with me a leaden article,—not a bullet from Bunker Hill, but an inkstand run by my distinguished prede-

cessor, who did not a little to contribute, by the ink he used, to the transactions of the eventful 17th of June. As it is, I propose to send this article, which was given me on Martha's Vineyard, the birthplace of Mayhew, and was made by him in 1738, when he was only eighteen years old. When shall I send, that you may present it at your next meeting from one who has been a member of the Society for nearly half a century, and successively its Recording and Corresponding Secretary for more than thirty years?

Very affectionately your friend,

CHARLES LOWELL.

JOSEPH WILLARD, Esq.

Hon. WILLIAM APPLETON and Rev. ALONZO H. QUINT were unanimously elected Resident Members.

The President read a letter from the Corporation of Harvard College, requesting permission to copy, for the use of the college, the portrait of Governor Gore in the possession of the Society.

On motion of Mr. LIVERMORE, it was *Voted*, That in the present instance, and also in all similar cases of application to copy original portraits belonging to the Society, the Standing Committee be authorized to grant leave, under such conditions as they may deem necessary or expedient.

The President called the attention of the Society to two paintings — one a portrait of Lafayette, the other of Cortez — which had recently been cleaned and restored by Mr. Howorth in a manner highly creditable to him, and without expense to the Society. Whereupon it was, at the suggestion of the President, unanimously *Voted*, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Mr. Howorth for the valuable service he has

gratuitously rendered in cleaning and retouching the portraits of Lafayette and Cortez.

The President submitted printed documents (circulars) from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, proposing a union of the leading Historical and Antiquarian Societies of the country to memorialize Congress for a grant of lands for the benefit of the United States. Referred to the Standing Committee.

Mr. WARREN submitted the following Report: —

The Committee to whom were referred the manuscript memoirs of the late Rev. Dr. Pierce, report, that a large part of the volumes have been examined by a portion of the Committee, and are found to be marked by the well-known characteristics of Dr. Pierce, — diligence and accuracy, kindness, and great catholicity of feeling. These manuscripts are of great value as a repository of facts and dates, as embracing a valuable current ecclesiastical and theological history of the time during which Dr. Pierce was in the ministry, and as containing interesting and discriminating portraiture of the characters of very many distinguished clergymen and laymen.

The Committee find no reason why the volumes should not be open to the inspection of the members of the Society.

The Committee ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

C. H. WARREN, *per order*.

The Report was accepted, and the volumes are open to the inspection of the Society; it being understood that the prohibition in regard to extracts, made by Dr. Pierce, and already established by the Society, does not extend to a name, a date, or a fact, — either of which may be copied.

Mr. DEANE stated that he had recently noticed among the papers of Dr. Belknap a document relating to the formation of the Society, which might be interesting to the members. It was a memorandum in the handwriting of Dr. Belknap, which furnishes additional evidence of his agency in the projection and establishment of this Society. From a record in the beginning of the first Letter-book of the Society, it is known that five persons met some time in the year 1790, and agreed to form an Historical Society; and it has been said that each agreed to bring one person to the next meeting, for the purpose of organization. The record alluded to gives the names of the five persons who "first associated in 1790," and also of those "elected by them, each nominating one." The first meeting at which the Society was instituted was held Jan. 24, 1791, at the house of Mr. Tudor. The Records say that the persons present agreed to consider this the first meeting, and proceeded to organize. It appears that but eight of the ten who had agreed to associate were present at this meeting; but Messrs. Baylies and Minot, who were absent, were considered as present or associating, — the latter being elected a member of the Standing Committee.

Mr. Deane then exhibited and read the paper to which he had alluded. It is a rough draught of a constitution, with erasures and interlineations, drawn up prior to the informal meeting of the first five in 1790; and is probably the earliest document extant relative to the formation of the Society. This paper is labelled, "Plan for an Antiquarian Society, August, 1790." Having been read by Mr. Deane, it was ordered that it should

be copied into the Records of the Society. It is as follows: —

A Society to be formed, consisting of not more *than seven at first*, for the purpose of collecting, preserving, and communicating the antiquities of America.

Admissions to be made in such manner as the associated shall judge proper; the number of members to be limited.

A President, Recording and Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, and Cabinet-keeper, to be appointed.

Each member to pay — at his admission, and — yearly. This and other money to be applied to promoting the objects of the Society.

Each member, on his admission, shall engage to use his utmost endeavors to collect and communicate to the Society, manuscripts, printed books and pamphlets, historical facts, biographical anecdotes, observations in natural history, specimens of natural and artificial curiosities, and any other matters which may elucidate the natural and political history of America from the earliest times to the present day; and —

All communications which are thought worthy of being preserved shall be entered at large in the books of the Society, with an index, and the originals kept on file.

Letters shall be written to gentlemen in each of the United States, requesting them to form similar Societies; and a correspondence shall be kept up between them, for the purpose of communicating discoveries and improvements to each other.\*

Each Society through the United States shall be desired, from time to time, to publish such of their communications as they may judge proper; and all publications shall be made on paper and in pages of the same size, that they may be bound together; and each Society so publishing shall be

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\* The word "improvements" is erased.

desired to send gratuitously to each of the other Societies one dozen copies, at least, of each publication.

Quarterly meetings to be held for the purpose of communicating; and, in this State, the quarterly meetings shall be held on the days next following those appointed for the meetings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

When the Society's funds can afford it, salaries shall be granted to the Secretaries and other officers.

Persons to compose the first meeting: William Tudor, Esq., Rev. John Eliot, Rev. Peter Thacher, James Winthrop, Esq., Jere. Belknap.\*

Mr. BROOKS offered some remarks on the origin of the name of the town of Medford, tracing it through the Cradock Family — the original owners of the plantation on the Mystic River — to the manor of Metford, in Staffordshire, England, also owned by the same family. The change from Metford to Medford, Mr. Brooks said, could not be explained. The name was written in different ways in the town-records, but, since 1715, was invariably spelt as at the present time.

Mr. WASHBURN presented to the Society, for its cabinet, a six-dollar note of the old Continental money, dated 1775.

#### AUGUST MEETING.

The stated meeting of the Society, for August, was held this day (Aug. 11), in the cottage of Mr. Tudor, at Nahant. The meeting was called to order by the President at eleven and a half o'clock, A.M.

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\* The name of "Hon. S. Adams, Esq.," is the first on the list, but is erased.